BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

Annual Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector,

FOR 1919.

STOURBRIDGE:
MARK & MOODY, LTD., "COUNTY EXPRESS" OFFICES,
40743

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor:

ALDERMAN W. R. SELLECK, J.P.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN A. H. MOODY, C.B.E., C.C.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Councillor L. J. Cook, *Chairman.*

Alderman	Waugh	Councillor	J. Hobley
,,	J. Wooldridge	,,	B. F. Mason
Councillor	C. Broughton	,,	J. Sutton
,,	C. S. Hall	,,	T. Thatcher
,,	J. Harrington	,,	S. Wright

Medical Officer of Health:

JOSEPH R. SINTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Sanitary Inspector:

ARTHUR KENT, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1919.

Area in Acres	1920
Estimated Population middle 1919	18045
Population per acre	9·39
Number of Houses in District (approximate) ...	4145
Rateable Value	£69,280
Birth Rate, nett	16·90
Death Rate, nett	11·83
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	49·18
Zymotic Death Rate	92
Total Deaths from Diarrhœa	3
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	·87

Births.

There were 305 births registered belonging to this district, of which 162 were males and 143 females.

26 of the births were illegitimate children.

The Birth Rate was 16·90.

The percentage of illegitimate children to total births is 8·52.

The Birth Rate is the lowest yet recorded for this District.

The previous births and birth rates were as follows :—

	Births.	Birth Rate.
1918 ...	321 ...	17·69
1917 ...	320 ...	17·59
1916 ...	366 ...	20·52
1915 ...	382 ...	23·07
1914 ...	403 ...	22·82

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1919 is 18·5.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 165. (87 males and 78 females).

The death rate for 1919 was 9·52

There were, however, 40 deaths of persons (22 males, 18 females) residents of this Borough, occurring outside the district, which for statistical purposes have to be included in the death rate for this District. These deaths occurred as follows :—

	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Ttl.
Corbett Hospital	10	2	3	15
The Union, Wordsley	10	1	0	11
Guest Hospital, Dudley...	0	1	1	2
Kidderminster Infirmary ...	1	0	0	1
County and City Lunatic Asylum, Powick	1	0	0	1
Ear and Throat Hospital, Birmingham	1	0	0	1
Hayley Green Hospital	1	0	0	1
Knightwick Sanatorium	0	1	0	1
Welland Sanatorium	0	0	1	1
Union Infirmary, Sedgley ...	1	0	0	1

	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Total.
County Lunatic Asylum, Bromsgrove	0	1	0	1
Halesowen	1	0	0	1
Kinver	0	1	0	1
Lye	1	0	0	1
Llandudno	0	1	0	1
Total	27	8	5	40

Thus making the total deaths belonging to the district 205, and giving a nett corrected death rate of 11.83.

The deaths and death rates of previous years were :—

	Deaths.	Death Rates.
1918	304	18·77
1917	234	14·34
1916	214	13·05
1915	242	14·35
1914	225	12·10

The Death Rates for the years 1916, 1917, and 1918 were also calculated from the civilian population, thus accounting for the slightly higher Death Rates for those years.

The mean age at death of the deaths registered in this district is 50·6.

The nett mean age of death (i.e., deaths occurring inside and outside the district) is 49·5.

The mean age at death of the deaths of persons belonging to this district but registered outside is 45·2.

The percentage of deaths at the various age periods were :—

Under 1 year	7·31
One and under 5 years	3·90
5 and under 15 years	7·31
15 and under 25 years	6·34
25 and under 65 years	34·63
65 and upwards	40·97

The following Street list gives the Births and total deaths in each Street, as well as the number of deaths of infants under one year of age.

Street List showing Number of Births, Infantile Deaths and Total Deaths.

STREET.	Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	Total Deaths
Albert Street	1	..	...
Angel Street	5	...	5
Bagley Street	4	...	2
Bank Street	1	...	...
Bath Road	...	...	..
Baylie Street	2	...	1
Beale Street	3	...	1
Beech Road	1	...	1
Bell Street	1	...	...
Birmingham Street ...	14	..	6
Bowling Green Road ...	1	...	...
Brickkiln Lane ...	...	...	...
Bridgnorth Road ...	2	.	3
Bridle Road	2	...	3
Bright Street	...	...	...
Brook Road	1		..
Brook Street	6	..	3
Cecil Street	5	1	3
Cathcart Road ..	1	...	1
Chapel Street	...	.	1
Chawnhill	...	..	...
Cherry Street ...	2	...	2
Church Street ...	7	1	2
Church Road ..	...	..	...
Clarke Street	1	..	...
Cleveland Street ...	1	...	2
The Cliff, ...	3	...	2
Clifton Street	4	...	3
Cobden Street ...	7	..	1
Corser Street ...	2	...	2
Court Street	..	...	2
Coventry Street ...	2	...	1
Crauford Street ...	...	...	...
Cross Street	...	...	
Duke Street	3		...
Duncombe Street ...	2	...	3
Eggington Road... ...	...	...	1
Enville Street ..	12	...	2
Farlands Road ..	...	...	1
Field Lane	6	...	...
Fir Grove	...		1
Firmstone Street .	3	...	..
Foster Street ...	...	.	1
Gig Mill	...	...	..

Street List showing Number of Births, Infantile Deaths and Total Deaths.—*Continued.*

STREET.	Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Total Deaths.
Giles Hill	1	...	...
Gladstone Road ..	1	..	...
Glasshouse Hill ...	1	...	...
Glebe Lane	...	...	1
Greenfield Avenue ...	...	...	...
Green Street	4	...	4
Hadcroft	...	...	1
Hagley Road	10	1	5
Hanbury Hill	...	...	...
Hanbury Passage ...	2	...	...
Hall Street	3	...	4
Ham	...	...	...
Heath Street	2	1	3
Heath Lane	2	...	7
Hemplands Road ...	2	. .	...
High Street (Stourbridge)	8	2	8
High Street (Wollaston)	11	...	4
High Park Avenue ..	...	...	1
Hill Street	9	...	2
Hungary Hill ...	1		...
Junction Road ...	...	...	1
Jobs Lane	...	..	...
King Street	6	...	2
Laburnam Street .	2	...	1
Lawn Street	3	..	1
Lawrence Street ...	4	...	...
Lion Street	1	...	2
Lion Passage	...	...	...
Love Lane	2	..	1
Mamble Road ..	5	1	1
Market Street ...	2	...	...
Meriden Avenue ...	...	...	...
Mill Street	3	...	2
Mount Street	9	..	1
Mount Road	1	...	...
New Street	4	1	2
New Road	3	1	5
New Wood	...	...	..
Norton Road and Norton	13	1	5
Osmaston Road ...	1	..	.
Pargeter Street ...	...	...	..
Parkfield Road ...	...	...	...
Parkfield Terrace ...	.	.	...
Park Street	5	...	2

Street List showing Number of Births, Infantile Deaths and Total Deaths.—*Continued.*

STREET.	Births.	Death of Infants under 1 year.	Total Deaths.
Park Lane	...	...	2
Prescott Road ...	...	...	...
Pool Street	1	..	1
Prospect Hill	2	...	2
Queen Street	...	...	...
Rectory Road	...	...	1
Red Hill	...	...	1
Ridge Street	...	.	1
St. Mary's Lane ...	...	...	...
School Street	1	...	...
Shepherds Brook ...	1	...	1
Short Street	1	...	2
South Avenue ...	1	...	...
South Road	7	1	2
Stambermill	1	...	1
Summer Street ...	11	1	4
Swan Street	1	...	...
Swinford Road ...	...	...	...
The Grange	...	...	...
The Heath	1	...	...
Theatre Road ..	1	. .	...
Talbot Street	...	..	1
Union Passage .	1	...	...
Union Street	9	1	5
Unwin Passage ..	2	...	...
Valley Road	..	...	...
Vicarage Road ..	9	1	4
Victoria Street . .	...	...	...
West Street	1	...	2
Western Road ...	2		2
Wheeler Street	6	..	2
Wheelers Hill ...	...	...	. .
Witton Street ...	4	...	...
Wood Street ...	2	...	2
Wollaston Road ...	1	...	...
Worcester Street ...	4	...	5
Yardley Street ...	2	...	2
Births outside the District	9	...	...
Deaths outside the District	...	1	40
Total	305	15	205

Infantile Mortality.

There were 14 deaths of infants under one year of age registered in the district, and one belonging to this district, but registered outside, making a total of 15.

Stourbridge	10
Wollaston	1
Upper Swinford	3
Corbett Hospital	1

The infant mortality rate for 1919 was 49·18, being the lowest yet recorded.

The average number of infantile deaths for the previous 10 years is 40, and the mortality rate 130·20.

The following table gives the total deaths of infants, and the percentage rates for registered births from 1898, together with percentage rates in England and Wales.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Percentage.	Percentage England & Wales.
1898	74	16·2	16·0
1899	68	14·1	16·3
1900	77	16·4	15·4
1901	72	15·0	15·1
1902	51	10·9	13·3
1903	58	12·3	13·2
1904	63	13·5	14·5
1905	43	10·2	12·8
1906	52	10·9	13·2
1907	54	12·4	11·8
1908	37	8·3	12·0
1909	66	15·3	10·9
1910	44	10·8	10·5
1911	59	13·11	
1912	39	9·62	
1913	40	9·66	
1914	29	7·17	
1915	43	11·05	
1916	26	7·10	
1917	28	8·75	
1918	29	9·03	
1919	15	4·91	

Table Showing Causes of Infantile Deaths and Months in which they occurred.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Premature Birth ..	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	6
Convulsions	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Broncho-Pneumonia ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Congenital Heart Disease..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Pneumonia	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Catarrhal Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total ..	1	4	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	15

The Health Visitor in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre reports as follows :—

Number of Births in Stourbridge and Pedmore notified by the County Medical Officer :—

Males	171
Females	156
Still Births	7
	328
Number of Primary Visits paid to homes	264
Re-visits	2829
	3083
Number of Attendances at the Centre	2703
Number on Register	236

Dr. Lloyd Francis attends the Centre weekly (Tuesday afternoon).

The Worcestershire County Council grant Orders for Milk to be supplied free or at reduced cost to Nursing or Expectant Mothers, and Children under five, in necessitous cases.

Dried Milk is supplied at the Centre at cost price.

A Second Midwife was engaged in November.

Poor Law Relief.

Amount expended in the year £1,293 5s· 4½d· The number of persons receiving relief being: Men 34 Women 116, Children 291. Total 341.

Gratuitous Medical Relief.

This District is well served with Institutions where Medical Relief may be obtained·

The Stourbridge Dispensary, established in 1832, is in Worcester Street, and has a Resident Medical Officer·

Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, is near the Borough Boundary, and is supported by this and surrounding districts· The Birmingham and Dudley Hospitals are also easily accessible·

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

This is adequate for all requirements and is pumped direct into the mains from the two deep wells which are situate at Coalbournbrook and Mill Meadow respectively, both being in Amblecote.

A Reservoir at Doctor's Hill in the Borough, serves to augment the pressure, the surplus water during the night going into the Reservoir.

The latest Analysis of the water is as follows :—

	Coalbournbrook	Mill Meadow
	(grains per gallon).	
Total Solid Matter, dried at 212°F.	41·44	35·00
Free and Saline Ammonia	·00	·0014
Albuminoid Ammonia	·0016	·0014
Nitric Nitrogen	·98	1·40
Combined Chlorine	4·97	2·52
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	·007	·006
Colour through 2 ft. tube	Each almost colourless	
Appearance	Clear	
Hardness before boiling	18·42	16·10
Hardness after boiling	11·00	9·40
Temporary Hardness	7·42	6·70
	Both organically very pure·	

The Corporation Baths and several works pump water from their own wells. There are still a few houses procuring their water supply from pump wells. These wells are kept under observation· A considerable number of the houses supplement the water supply by having rain water cisterns on their premises.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Stour has no pollution in the Borough, but passing through manufacturing districts before reaching here, it sometimes becomes polluted with acid and other waste, but not to any great extent.

Two streams flow through the district, both being free from pollution.

Drainage and Sewage.

The Town was sewered in 1887. The sewage flows by gravitation to a pumping station in the Borough and is pumped to the Stourbridge Main Drainage Boards sewage farms at Whittington, in the Rural District of Seisdon (Staffs.) where it is treated on the Broad irrigation principle.

With the exception of a few houses situate on the outskirts, all the dwelling-houses are provided with water closets and efficient drainage, the drains being intercepted from the sewers with intercepting traps. Four houses have cesspools.

Closet Accommodation.

The conversion of privies into water closets was practically completed in 1909. About 9 cottages and farmhouses together with one brickworks, on the outskirts still have privies, these houses are situate in localities where there are no sewers. Earth closets are provided at the Cemetery house and two other houses in the Borough. Previous to 1901 some slop water closets were put in, many of these have since been removed and W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus put in. For a considerable time past the Town Council has required a separate W.C. for each new house and additional W.C.'s required at premises where there was one W.C. for two or more houses.

About 5 per cent. of the houses have slop water closets, including those houses where there is a fresh water W.C. inside the house and a slop W.C. outside. With the exception of the few privies mentioned, all the other houses are provided with fresh W.C.'s The Sanitary Inspector's report gives the list of conversions and additional W.C.'s since 1901.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging is carried out by direct labour, and the refuse is destroyed at the Corporation Destructor, erected in 1904. The ashpits are emptied as required, and the contents of movable ashbins collected weekly. The contents of the very few earth closets are disposed of by the occupiers. The few privies are cleared as required and the contents buried. Four houses have cesspools, two being cleansed by the occupiers and the other two by the Town Council. The contents being spread over farm land.

Movable ashbins commenced to be substituted for ashpits in 1901, and most of the new houses erected since then are provided with movable ashbins. There are 1853 houses having movable ashbins.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector follows mine and gives a detailed account of the inspection of the district.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following statement.

Number and nature of inspections made by him during the year.

Inspections of houses and premises	437
Inspections under Housing and Town Planning Act	24
Visits *re* Infectious Disease	45
Visits *re* Tuberculosis	26
Re-Inspections and Re-visits	866
Slaughterhouses	96
Cowsheds	62
Workshops	39
Vans	35
Preliminary notices served	119
Preliminary notices complied with	85
Statutory notices served	76
Statutory notices complied with	9

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

There are 11 premises where offensive trades are carried on, viz. : Hide and Skin Dealer 1, Tripe Boiling 3, Leather Dressing 1, Fish Frying 5 and one where Fish Frying, Tripe Boiling and Fat Melting is carried on. One Fish Frying business which had been closed for several years was re-opened during the year. Permission was given to newly-establish a fish-frying business, but it was not commenced. Two applications for the establishment of a fish-frying business were refused during the year.

There is only one house let in lodgings. There are no underground sleeping rooms.

Schools.

The water supply of all the schools is from the Water Board's Mains and is satisfactory. No schools were closed during the year. Notices are sent to the schools for the exclusion of scholars from houses where cases of infectious diseases had occurred.

Milk Supply.

Twenty-three persons are registered as Milk Retailers in the district, 15 of whom are Cowkeepers, the remaining 8 being Milk-sellers only. The Cowsheds and Dairies are frequently inspected.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

The County Council being the authority under the notification of Births Acts, the Town Council does not carry out the above Order. The Town Council is desirous of having the notification of Births Acts re-transferred from the County Council so that, amongst other matters, the above Order could be administered by the Town Council.

Other Foods.

The Food Inspection is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances who is a Certificated Inspector of Meat and other Foods. In the report following this is a list of the various articles of food condemned during the year.

There are 17 retailers of meat in the district. Two butchers are sausage makers. The premises are frequently inspected and are satisfactory.

A public abattoir has not been established. Slaughtering is at present done at five private slaughterhouses, and these are regularly inspected.

One carcass weighing 407lbs. was condemned for tuberculosis.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 16 deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the year, giving a Zymotic death-rate of ·92 per 1,000 of the population.

The deaths were as follows :—

Influenza	10
Diarrhœa	3
Diphtheria	2
Septicæmia	1
	16

Measles and German Measles.

Two hundred and fifteen cases were reported. Most of the cases were visited by the Infant Welfare Centre health visitors and nursing instructions given.

There were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Fourteen cases were notified during the year, and occurred in seven months of the year, as will be seen in the following table.

MONTH.	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Total.
January	2	...	...	2
February	4	...	...	4
March	1	...	1	2
April	1	..	...	1
May		...		0
June	...	..		0
July	. .	..	..	0
August	...	..	. .	0
September ...	3		...	3
October	1	..	..	1
November ...	1		..	1
December ...	...	...	...	0
Total	13	...	1	14

Ten cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There were no deaths.

List of Cases and Deaths since 1909.

Year	Cases	Deaths
1909 ...	195 ...	7
1910 ...	66 ...	0
1911 ...	48 ...	1
1912 ...	27 ...	0
1913 . .	31 ...	0
1914 ...	95 ...	2
1915 ...	96 ...	1
1916 ...	24 ...	0
1917 ...	3 ...	0
1918 ...	3 ...	1
1919 ...	14 ...	0

Diphtheria.

68 Cases were reported during the year as follows :—

Month.	Stourbridge.	Wollaston.	Upper Swinford.	Total.
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	4	4
March	0	0	13	13
April	1	0	14	15
May	1	1	21	23
June	0	0	4	4
July	2	0	0	2
August	0	1	0	1
September	0	0	1	1
October	2	0	1	3
November	0	0	0	0
December	1	0	1	2
Total	7	2	59	68

Eight cases were removed to the hospital

There were three deaths, one being a boy from Oldswinford Hospital who died at the Infectious Diseases Hospital and a girl who also died at the Hospital. The other occurred in Upperswinford. The boy did not belong to this district and was a "transferable death."

Fifty-five of the cases occurred amongst the scholars of Oldswinford Hospital and were reported as follows :—February 3rd, March 13th, April 14th, May 21st, June 4th.

On the 23rd April, 1919, I inspected the Oldswinford Hospital in Company with Dr. G. H. Fosbroke (the Worcestershire M.O.H.), Dr. L. Hickey (the Medical Adviser of the Hospital) and the Sanitary Inspector.

It was found that the drainage was unsatisfactory, also the personal washing accommodation. These defects were subsequently remedied. All the boys were "swabbed" and those showing positive results were isolated and the school gradually emptied, through the boys showing negative results, being sent home. The suspected cases being kept constantly isolated and under observation.

The school was closed for about three months and since the re-opening of the school in November, no other cases were reported amongst the scholars by the end of the year.

Enteric Fever.

No cases were notified during the year.

The following table gives the number of cases notified each year for the last 20 years.

1900	..	25	1910	...	5
1901	...	5	1911	...	2
1902	...	10	1912	...	3
1903	...	8	1913	...	3
1904	...	7	1914	...	0
1905	...	19	1915	...	3
1906	...	4	1916	...	1
1907	...	9	1917	...	3
1908	...	1	1918	...	1
1909	...	8	1919	...	0

List of Notifications of Infectious Disease.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles and German Measles	..	..	..	2	6	59	91	33	9	6	3	6	215
Diphtheria	..	4	13	15	23	4	2	1	1	3		2	68
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	4	4	3	2	4	1	4	1	5	4	1	1	34
Tuberculosis Other	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1		..	..	12
Pneumonia	..	..	11	3	4	3	2	..	1	3	3	1	31
Scarlet Fever	2	4	2	1	..	..	..		3	1	1	..	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.	1	..	2	..	2	..	3	..	..	3	1	12
Erysipelas	4	..	..	.	..	2	..	1	1	2	..	1	11
Malaria	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	1	1	3	1	10
Totals	11	15	30	27	39	73	103	40	22	20	14	13	47

Street List of Notification of Infectious Diseases.

STREET.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Phthisis	Other Tubercular
Angel Street	1	1	1	2	...
Beale Street		...	..	1	..
Birmingham Street ...	6	1	1	1	1
Bridgnorth Road ...	..	..	...	2	1
Bridle Road	...	...	...	1	...

Street List of Notification of Infectious Disease.—*Continued.*

STREET.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Phthisis	Other Tubercular
Brook Street	1	...	...	1	...
Cecil Street	..	...	...	1	...
Cherry Street ...	...	...	.	1	...
Church Street	...	...	1	..	...
Cliff	...	1	...	..	..
Court Street	...	...	..	...	1
Coventry Street ...	..	...	1	...	..
Duncombe Street ...	...	1	..	1	...
Enville Street ...	...	1	...	1	...
Field Lane	1	..		1	...
Firmstone Street ...	...	..	...	1	...
Greenfield Avenue ...	...	1	...	...	.
Green Street	...	...	...	2	...
Hagley Road	...	57	...	3	1
Hall Street	...	1	1	...	...
Hemplands Road ...	...	...	1	...	...
High Street (Wollaston)	...	...	..	1	...
High Park Avenue ...	...	1	...	...	...
Hill Street	2	..	...	...	...
Hungary Hill ...	.	...	...	1	...
King Street	...	..	...	...	1
Market Street	...	...	1	...	...
Mill Street	...	...	...	1	...
Mount Street	...	...	..	1	1
Norton Road	...	..	2	...	1
Park Street	...	1	...	...	...
Pool Street	.	.	...	...	1
Queen Street	...	...	..	1	...
South Avenue ...	...	...	1	...	...
Summer Street ...	1	...	...	1	...
Talbot Street	...	...	1	...	...
Union Passage ...	1	...	...	...	...
Union Street	..	..	...	1	...
Unwin Passage ...	...	...	...	1	...
Vicarage Road ...	...	.	...	1	..
Victoria Street ...	...	..	...	1	...
West Street	...	1	...	...	1
Wheeler Street ...	.	..	1	1	1
Wheeler's Hill ...	...	.	...	...	1
Witton Street	...	.	...	3	...
Worcester Street ...	1	1	...	1	1
Total... ...	14	68	12	34	12

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Thirty-four cases were reported during the year. There were 15 deaths, and the death-rate per 1,000 of population was ·87.

The following table gives the number of deaths and death-rates per 1,000 population for the whole district since 1901.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.
1901	17	1·04	1911	16	·92
1902	16	·97	1912	12	·68
1903	24	1·44	1913	15	·85
1904	18	1·07	1914	20	1·13
1905	18	1·06	1915	18	1·06
1906	14	·81	1916	11	·67
1907	22	1·27	1917	14	·85
1908	20	1·14	1918	14	·86
1909	20	1·13	1919	11	·60
1910	18	1·01			

Other Tubercular Diseases.

Twelve cases were reported and four deaths occurred, two being Tubercular Meningitis.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

Only three deaths were recorded, one being an infant under one year of age and the cause was catarrhal enteritis.

Cancer.

There were 22 deaths from this disease during the year, Stourbridge 17, Wollaston 3, Upper Swinford 2.

The Deaths and Death Rates for the past 10 years were :—

Year	Stourbridge	Wollaston	Upper-Swinford	Total Deaths	Death Rates
1910	6	3	9	18	1·01
1911	9	2	4	15	·85
1912	12	4	1	17	·97
1913	12	2	2	16	·91
1914	11	3	7	21	1·18
1915	10	2	2	14	·84
1916	9	3	3	15	·91
1917	10	4	4	18	1·10
1918	10	8	10	28	1·72
1919	17	3	2	22	1·20

Venereal Disease.

Two lectures at Works in the Borough and a lecture at the Brotherhood Meeting were held under the auspices of the Worcestershire County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This work is carried out by a Voluntary Organisation, having premises at No. 24, New Road.

Some time ago this Town Council applied unsuccessfully to the Local Government Board to have the Notification of Births' Act re-transferred from the Worcestershire County Council, I consider it is desirable that this Act should be administered locally in conjunction with the local Voluntary Organisation.

Sanitary Administration.

The Sanitary Staff consists of the Inspector of Nuisances and an Assistant.

The Stourbridge and Halesowen Joint Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is the Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital, and there is also provision for isolation of smallpox cases. The accommodation has been found to be adequate. During 1919, only 18 cases were sent there from this Borough. The Hospital Committee consist of representatives of the Councils of Stourbridge, Lye and Wollescote, and Halesowen.

The Public Health Act Amendment Acts of 1890 and 1907, also the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, have been adopted by the Town Council. In December, 1910, the Local Government Board issued a Confirming Order scheduling the following trades as "Offensive Trades" in this district, viz. :—The trade of Hide and Skin Dealer, Fat Dealer, Gut Scraper, Leather Dresser, Glue Maker, Size Maker, Fat Melter or Extractor, Blood Dryer, and Fish Fryer.

Since the Incorporation of the Borough, in 1914, the Bye-laws have been revised.

Housing.

General Housing Conditions. In September, 1919, there were 4,145 inhabited houses. Of these 3,730 were of the type suitable for the " working classes." No new houses were erected during the year. The Town Council were proceeding with the erection of 131 houses, but none were completed at the end of the year. The population, as estimated by the Registrar-General at the middle of the year, was 18,045. According to the Food Control office records of the number of persons registered, and presumably the total inhabitants in September, 1919, was 17,612, and the approximate number of soldiers away on service, but belonging to

the town, was 722. Thus giving the approximate actual population as 18,334. A considerable number of new residents came into the Town during the year, as shown by the number of houses purchased by people who previously resided outside the Borough.

The extent of shortage of houses may be summed up as follows :—Population at Census in 1911, 17,316. Population, including soldiers on service, in September, 1919, 18,334. Increase of population in eight years, 1,018. During this period 143 new houses were erected, and 39 old houses demolished. The gain in houses being 104. The number of houses required to meet the increased population at the rate of 4 persons per house, is 254. Therefore the shortage of houses at middle of 1919 was 150. The Town Council had commenced the erection of 131 houses.

Overcrowding is not prevalent to any considerable extent.

A considerable number of old small houses still exist, some of these have in recent years been renovated and repaired. The general defects found consisted of general depreciation of the building, roofs, and inside plaster, broken floors, want of sinks and water taps inside, sanitary conveniences used in common, unsatisfactory arrangements, such as sculleries in basement, and back yards common to several houses. Very few courts exist, and these are well situated as regards air space.

Owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining labour to carry out extensive repairs, very little progress was made during the year in the repair of property. One owner was prosecuted for not complying with a notice requiring the abatement of nuisances arising from a defective house. Eleven Closing Orders were made.

Difficulty is experienced in having extensive repairs done to houses, principally owing to the available labour being absorbed in the erection of new houses. Smaller repairs have been done.

The conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, are generally satisfactory, but some houses still have one water tap common to several houses; with respect to closet accommodation, water closets are mainly provided, and where there is one water closet for two or more houses these cases are brought to the notice of the Sanitary Committee, in view of a W.C. being provided for each house. The refuse disposal is satisfactory. Seven additional water closets were provided during the year.

No Unhealthy Areas were reported before the year, but in November an Unhealthy Area, comprising 10 houses was reported under Part II. of the H.W.C. Act, 1890.

The Bye-laws have been revised since 1914.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation, by householders. Nil.

Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909:—

(a)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Section	24
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation	11
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	6

Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919—(a) Number of Orders for repairs issued, 6. Notice was given early in 1920 of the Owner's intention to close these 6 houses.

Closing Orders.—Eleven representations were made with a view to making Closing Orders, and Closing Orders were made in each of these cases. No Closing Orders were determined. No Demolition Orders were made.

One Dwelling-house with Shop, viz.: No. 158a, High Street, and one Lock-up Shop, No. 158, High Street, were demolished for the purpose of erecting a Picture House.

An Obstructive Building, being a warehouse with stable adjoining, in Green Street, was the subject of a representation in December. This is still under consideration.

The Inspector of Nuisances is the only Officer engaged in Housing Work.

The following are the summaries of Reports on Housing made to the Housing Commissioner of the Region on 31st October, 1919, and 31st December, 1919.

Report on Survey of Housing Needs, 31st October, 1919:—

Section I.

Particulars as to Staple Industries.

Spade and Shovel Making.
Glass Making.
Brick Making, Ordinary, Fire, and Glazed.
Chain Making.
Frost Cog Making.
Anvil Making.
Galvanized Iron Ware.

Enamelled Ware.
Iron Works.
Engineering.
Hot Water Apparatus.
Skin Rug Works.
Glove Making.

2. Particulars of Industrial Development :—

Extension of existing Iron Works, Engineering Works and Spade and Shovel Works.

3. Particulars of Reduction of Employment :—

Nil. But as a considerable number of Residents have occupations outside the Borough it is anticipated that when the adjoining Authorities erect houses some of these Residents may leave this District.

4	Population.	Pre-War (1914)	17,659
5	,,	Average annual increase 5 years before the War	141
6.	,,	Estimated present	18,146
7.	,,	Increase or decrease anticipated of working class due to Industry	Vide ans. to para. 3. Supra.

Existing House Accommodation.

8.	Dwelling-houses in district		4,145
9.	Working Class houses of the type in Question 15		3,730
10.	,,	,, houses built annually 5 years before the War	24
11.	,,	,, houses built between 1/1/15 and 31/12/18	4
12.	,,	,, houses empty might be repaired for (*a*) Working Classes	7
	,,	,, houses empty might be repaired (*b*) and converted into flats	0

Overcrowding.

13. Tenements No Tenements.

14. Houses intended for one family occupied by 2 or more families without being adapted. — 133 houses are occupied by Members of more than one family mostly being married sons or daughters with their wives or husbands.
Only two houses of the description mentioned are known.
Of the 133 houses two had more than two occupants per room and 64 had more than two occupants per bed room.

Rents.

15. Prevailing rents.

(*a*) from 3/- to 3/6.
(*b*) ,, 4/- to 7/-.
(*c*) ,, 3/- to 6/-.
(*d*) ,, 4/- (inc.) to £26 p.a., and rates.
(*e*) ,, 7/6.

Section II.

Estimate of Housing Needs.

1. Houses required.

(*a*) Undecided as to answer. (Note: Growth of population for 5 years, annual 141. 5 years 705.
At four persons per house = approx. 179 houses.
There are only six cases of Overcrowding where more than one family live in one house). 179

(*b*) Re-house persons by clearance of unhealthy areas Nil

(*c*) Replace unfit dwellings 44

(*d*) Replace obstructive dwellings (not included in *c*) Nil

(*e*) Replace houses which are below reasonable standard 79

(*f*) Meet anticipated deficiencies. Industrial development Nil

302

2	Deduct :	
	(*a*) Houses set free through decrease in population	25
	(*b*) Number of houses built by private persons during the next three years	Nil
		25
	Houses required	277

Section III.

Unhealthy Areas.

Nil.

Section IV.

Insanitary Houses, Prevailing Conditions.

1	No. of inhabited houses unfit for human habitation	44
2.	No. of persons inhabiting these houses	170
3.	No. of houses already subject to	
	(*a*) Closing orders	7
	(*b*) Demolition Orders	2
4	No. of houses seriously defective but can be made fit	60

Proposed Action.

5. What immediate action is contemplated by the Local Authority with regard to

(*a*) Houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation :—

To be reported for Closing.

(*b*) Houses which are seriously defective but can be made habitable :—

Will be reported for Closing and if not repaired the Town Council will probably purchase and reconstruct.

6. Within what time is it contemplated that conditions will be such as to warrant the demolition of the houses which are not and cannot be made fit for human habitation?

About two years, in which time it is contemplated that the 130 houses being built by the Town Council will be occupied, and thus liberate other small houses.

REPORT ON 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

HOUSING SURVEY NEEDS.

First Scheme for Dealing with Unfit Houses.

The Report of the Survey furnished to the Housing Commissioner on 31st October, 1919, which was adopted by the Town Council on 27th October, 1919, gave the following "Prevailing Conditions" :—

No. of inhabited houses unfit for human habitation	44
No. of Persons inhabiting these houses	170
No. of houses seriously defective, but can be made fit	60

At the Town Council Meeting, held on 24th November, 1919, Closing Orders were made in respect of the following eleven Dwelling-houses :—

(1) Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, GREEN STREET, and Nos. 1 and 2, at rear of Nos. 7 and 8, GREEN STREET.

(2) Nos. 1, 3, and 5, BIRMINGHAM STREET.

Of the former, Nos. 4, 5, and 6, belong to one Owner, and the remainder to another Owner.
It was suggested that No. 6 should be removed, Nos. 4 and 5 repaired and a yard, now part of No. 7, be acquired to make a back yard and provide through access and ventilation for Nos. 4 and 5. That Nos. 7 and 8, with the two back houses, be made into through houses, and that No. 9 be either demolished or converted into a lock-up shop.

The latter three were considered to be unrepairable, and should be demolished.

The following proposals were adopted at the Town Council Meeting held on 29th December, 1919, after Reports from the Medical Officer of Health.

To Schedule as an UNHEALTHY AREA, under Part 2 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, NEW STREET, Nos. 2 and 9, in Court No. 3, NEW STREET and House occupied by Mrs. Higgs, HEMPLANDS ROAD.

To Schedule as an OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDING.

A Warehouse, with Stable adjoining, between, and at the fronts of Nos. 1 and 2 and 3, GREEN STREET, and Nos. 4, 5, and 6, GREEN STREET.

The following Dwelling-houses have been Scheduled for inspection and reports in the immediate future :—

For Closing and Clearance of Site.—

Four Houses in Round's Court, The Heath.

Nos. 144, 146, and 148, South Road.

Nos. 1 and 2, Unwin Passage.

Nos. 2 and 3, Baker's Yard, Mount Street.

Nos. 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10, Griffiths' Yard, Birmingham Street.

Two Houses, Brook Steps, Birmingham Street.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Wheeler's Hill.

Nos. 2, 3, and 4, Parkes' Yard, Coventry Street.

For Closing in view of improvements as follows :—

Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32, NORTON ROAD.
(To clear site and erect Small Dwellings on same site).

Nos. 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, King Street.
(For conversion into three or four Houses. The Town Council to purchase under Section 12 of the H.T.P. Act, 1919, and convert and retain the houses).

Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 7, Vicarage Road.
(For repairs and improvement).

Nos. 3 and 4, Unwin Passage.
(For repairs and improvement).

No. 6, Wheeler's Hill, and No. 10, Queen Street.
(To be made into one house).

Nos. 11, 12, and 13, Griffiths' Yard, Birmingham Street.
(To be added to Nos. 16, 18, and 20, Birmingham Street, to make through houses).

The following to be dealt with under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :—

Nos. 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 124, and 126, Hagley Road.

(Back doors to be put to houses on to St. Mary's Lane. Additional and improved sanitary conveniences).

Nos. 61, 63, and 65, South Road.

(Repair generally).

Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, Mamble Road.

(To remove the ground floor rooms of Nos. 18 and 26, and make present two yards into four yards. General repairs and additional sanitary conveniences).

Nos. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, Yardley's Row, High Street, Wollaston.

(To remove the ground floor rooms of Nos. 35 and 40, and treat as Mamble Road, but make three yards).

Nos. 16, 18, and 20, Birmingham Street.

(To be made into through houses with Nos. 11, 12, and 13, Griffiths' Yard, Birmingham Street).

No. 16, High Street.

(General repairs).

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. SINTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1920.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members of the Stourbridge Town Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit to you a report of the work done in my department during the year 1919, being my Nineteenth Annual Report.

Complaints.

During the year 80 complaints were received relating to various nuisances and insanitary conditions.

The average number of complaints received during the past 10 years is 128.

Inspection of District.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 1,630. These were as follows :—

General inspections of houses and premises	437
Inspection under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations)	24
Infectious disease	45
Tuberculosis cases	26
Re-inspections and re-visits	866

Slaughter-houses	96
Cowsheds	62
Workshops	39
Bakehouses	66
Vans	35
	1630

In making these Inspections 1,027 sanitary defects, nuisances or contraventions of your Bye-laws were found.

There were 1,232 defects not remedied at the end of 1918, and these, together with the 1,027 defects met with during the year 1919 make a total of 2,259 insanitary conditions requiring attention.

356 defects were remedied during the year, thus leaving 1,903 insanitary conditions unabated.

The smallness of the number of defects remedied is accounted for by the difficulty in securing the necessary labour to do the work, and by reason of some defects only at houses having been attended to, leaving other work to be done later. In these cases the records of the work done will be completed when the work is finished. Some houses have been undergoing repair as long ago as 1914, and still in hand.

The following table gives details of the various inspections and re-inspections made during the past 10 years :—

Year.	Premises	Houses under the Inspection of District Regulations, 1910.	Slaughter-Houses	Work-shops	Cow-sheds and Dairies	Bake-houses.	Infectious Diseases	Tuber-culosis	Vans	Re-Inspections.
1909	724		157	145	109	60	214		26	1081
1910	611	33	171	132	67	59	84		28	1232
1911	457	172	203	124	92	53	67		22	1558
1912	439	188	273	86	98	30	38	40	42	2347
1913	485	177	191	54	70	85	47	77	32	2164
1914	475	103	155	45	81	59	109	53	48	1846
1915	601	68	165	78	100	35	106	49	59	1154
1916	464	26	188	81	124	73	142	38	34	981
1917	437	18	184	44	67	50	120	34	62	711
1918	277	22	134	22	60	34	15	30	32	478
1919	437	24	96	39	62	66	45	26	35	866

The drains at 5 premises, including Oldswinford Hospital, were tested with the Smoke Machine.

Notices.

119 written or preliminary intimation Notices were sent during the year, mostly being letters setting out in detail the defects found, and the suggested alterations or remedies. The latter being in the form of a general specification. Many of the Notices referred to several houses, as only one letter or preliminary Notice is sent in those cases where several adjoining houses belong to one Owner.

289 houses or premises were dealt with in the 119 Notices.

In many cases, particularly when drains are obstructed, the persons concerned are interviewed; and the defects are remedied without Notices being served. 85 Notices were complied with at the end of the year.

In those cases where the preliminary Notices are not complied with, the matters are reported to your Sanitary Committee in my Monthly Report, and under your instructions, upon the recommendation of the Sanitary Committee, 76 Statutory Notices were served, as follows :—

Public Health Act, 1875,	Sec. 94 (Abatement of Nuisances)	25
,, ,,	Sec. 36 (Provision of W.C.'s or Ashbins)	16
Public Health Act Amend. Act, 1907,	Sec. 49 (to provide sink)	1
Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909,	Sec. 17 (Closing Orders)	22
,,	Act, 1919, Sec. 28 (To repair houses)	12
		76

At the end of the year 9 Notices had been complied with; the work to comply with 23 was in progress; Orders had been given to contractors in respect of 7 Notices; Appeals to the Ministry of Health had been lodged with respect to 8 Closing Orders; and Notices had been sent to the Town Council stating that the Owner of six houses to which the Notices under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, applied, intended to close the houses. Three Notices had unexpired at the end of the year.

Prosecutions.

Legal proceedings were taken on 18th March against the Owner of a house for not complying with a Notice served upon him to abate certain Nuisances. A fine of £3 and costs was imposed. The Owner subsequently closed the house.

The cases taken before the Magistrates in previous years were :—

1901, 4; 1902, 18; 1903, 15; 1904, 6; 1905, 13; 1906, 1; 1907, 1; 1908, 4; 1909, 5; 1910, 3; 1911, 1; 1912, 1; 1913, 7; 1914, 15; 1915, 7; 1916, 3; 1917, 1; 1918, 1; 1919, 1.

Offensive Trades.

The following Offensive Trades are carried on in the District :—

Fish Fryers, 6; Hide and Skin Dealers, 1; Fat Melter, 1; Leather Dresser, 1; Tripe Boilers, 4.

Two applications to establish Fish Frying Businesses were refused. Two applications were granted, one being to re-open a business, whilst in the other case the business was not commenced.

Bakehouses.

There are 13 Bakehouses on the Register, several having been given up during the past few years.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 23 Dairymen registered, 15 of whom are Cowkeepers. There are approximately 112 cows. One Cowkeeper was registered during the year. A Cowkeeper removed his cows from a cowshed in the Town to a farm outside, but still retails milk in the Borough.

Pigs were found being kept in a cowshed; these were removed after notice.

A large brick cowshed has been erected to take the place of a wooden structure.

Factory and Workshop Act.

At the end of the year there were 198 workshops on the Register.

I made 39 inspections. Two new Workshops were without sanitary conveniences. A W.C. was subsequently provided at each place.

Three Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. Two being in respect of Workshops requiring lime washing, and one being the want of a sanitary convenience at a new Workshop. All these defects were remedied.

Outworkers' Lists.

Twenty-eight lists of Outworkers were received during the year, containing the names of 65 Outworkers, 47 of whom resided outside the Borough.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two old registered houses and one licensed house. The license of the latter has been renewed.

The returns of the number of lodgers sleeping at these houses during the year were as follows :—(The figures represent the number of times the beds were occupied, and not the individual lodgers staying at the houses, thus one person lodging at the house for seven nights is counted seven times).

MONTH.	Adult Lodgers		Lodgers above 10 and under 21		Lodgers under 10 years		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
January ...	685	86		38	4	7	820
February ..	665	78		36		19	798
March ...	867	104		20		17	1008
April ...	678	94		27		21	820
May ...	670	120			7	16	813
June ...	613	88				7	708
July ..	874	86				12	972
August ..	682	83		1		29	795
September ...	835	143		7		44	1029
October ..	944	137			33	35	1149
November ..	715	84			14	21	834
December ...	714	142			28	28	912
Total ...	8942	1245		129	86	256	10658

The totals in previous years were :—

YEAR.	Adult Lodgers		Lodgers under 21 and above 10		Lodgers under 10 years		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1914	5127	1251	72	68	199	104	6821
1915	7961	1162	51	26	65	95	9360
1916	7542	1062	44	211	35	188	9046
1917	8007	1175		12	70	116	9380
1918	8574	1295	77	76	104	7	10133

Slaughterhouses.

In 1914 there were 15 Slaughterhouses, 10 being subject to annual licenses.

The Butchers' Buying Committee slaughter their supplies at three Slaughterhouses. Two of the others are in connection with Pork Butchers, the remainder being used occasionally for pig-killing.

The annually licensed places are as follows :—

Mr. Wm. Harris	57 Bridgnorth Road.
Mr. G. A. Parkes	63 Bridgnorth Road.
Mr. T. W. Jones and Mr. G. Beddoes	Rear 7 Coventry Street.
Messrs. H. and J. Parkes ...	Rear 8 Coventry Street.
Mr. S. C. Mason	Rear 7 Coventry Street.
Mr. W. A. A. Broadway ...	Enville Street.
Mr. F. T. White	Enville Street.
Mr. T. V. Parkes	The Heath.

The other Slaughterhouses being :—

Miss Hobson	97 High Street.
Mr. R. Tottey	High Street.
Mr. S. Hill	Hagley Road.

Two previously annually licensed places have not been used for some time, in one case owing to the death of the Owner, and in the other on account of the Occupier having given up business. One old Slaughterhouse has not been used for several years, as the Owner ceased carrying on his business as a Butcher, when his son joined H.M. Forces. The question of re-opening of this Slaughterhouse will come before your Sanitary Committee should the Owner wish to resume business as a Butcher.

In 1911 your Sanitary Committee considered the question of erecting a Public Abattoir in the district, but owing to local opposition no definite scheme was submitted.

In February last your Sanitary Committee again considered the matter, and I was instructed to communicate with the Local Government Board. In accordance with these instructions I wrote as follows :—

Town Hall,

Stourbridge,

24th February, 1919.

The Secretary,

Local Government Board,

Whitehall, London, S.W. 1

Sir,—

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

This Town Council is considering the desirability of erecting a Public Abattoir in the Borough, and I have been instructed to ask if you will kindly advise the Town Council on the matter.

In 1911 the subject was under consideration, but on account of anticipated opposition from the local Butchers' Association the matter was dropped. Circumstances having altered, both as regards the number and licensing of existing Slaughter-houses as well as more co-operation amongst the meat traders, it has been suggested that an Abattoir would be an advantage here and would receive the support of the local Butchers' Association.

In 1911 the position as regards Slaughter-houses here was :—

Registered	2
Licensed	13
Annually Licensed	8
	23

Several have been voluntarily closed, other licensed places were changed to annual licences on change of Occupier, the licencing of some were refused on change of occupation owing to their condition, others having fallen into dis-use through suspension of business owing to the War.

The Slaughter-houses in the town now are as follows :—
In use :

Registered	1
Licenced	2
Annually Licenced	8
	11

One Registered Slaughter-house is not used as the son of the occupier joined the Forces. The occupier of an Annually Licenced one has fallen in the War and unsuccessful efforts have been made to sell or let the premises.

At the present time four Butchers obtain supplies of dead meat from Birmingham, the others sharing the live stock supplies. With the exception of the two Slaughter-houses mentioned the licences of those occupied by Members of H.M. Forces have been renewed.

The area of the Borough is 1,920 acres, the estimated population being 18,200; the Civilian population 16,400, whilst the meat buying population is 17,700.

Adjoining the Borough is the Urban District of Amblecote, with a population of about 3,200, the Urban District of Lye and Wollescote, population about 12,000, and well-populated portions of the Rural Districts of Bromsgrove and Seisdon.

It is anticipated that in the near future supplies of meat may have to be obtained from central Slaughter-houses and those towns not possessing an Abattoir would have to obtain supplies from other places where there is a central Slaughter-house. The position of Stourbridge is peculiarly favourable as a town where a central Slaughter-house should be established as most of the meat supply of the surrounding districts is purchased at the local Stock Sale, or at Hagley (about 2 miles away) in Bromsgrove Rural.

Whilst the Town Council is anxious to be prepared with a central Slaughter-house should future legislation require the abolition of private Slaughter-houses, they are reluctant to embark on an expensive undertaking which may not be financially self-supporting unless there are strong grounds for doing so, and for this reason the Town Council respectfully solicit your opinion and advice.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR KENT,

Inspector of Nuisances.

The following is a copy of a letter received in reply :—

"Local Government Board,

"Whitehall, S.W.,

(Department of Chief Inspector of Foods),

"19th March, 1919.

"Dear Sir,—

"Your letter of the 24th ultimo, addressed to the Board, "regarding the provision of a public abattoir in your "district has come to me.

"While a definite answer cannot be given at the moment "to questions which you raise, I may say that the whole "subject is receiving close consideration here. I have been "interested to learn the position which exists in Stourbridge, "particularly the reduction which has been effected in a "number of private Slaughterhouses. Such a reduction is, "of course, all to the good in the event of any legislation of "a general nature being considered.

"I shall be glad to have any additional information "regarding the question in your district from time to time.

"Yours truly,

"A. W. J. MacFADDEN."

"MR. ARTHUR KENT.

At your meeting in March last the following resolution was adopted, upon the recommendation of your Sanitary Committee, acting on the suggestion of other Local Authorities :—

> "That the time is now opportune for the Government to "consider the urgent necessity of immediately making all "diseases of amimals that are communicable to Human "Beings compulsorily notifiable, and of providing adequate "compensation to be paid subsequent to any action that may "in the public interest be determined upon; and considers "that in any scheme of National Reconstruction there should "be provided a Public Abattoir for every large centre, and "that in every such district full powers should be granted to "the Local Authority to compulsorily close all private "Slaughterhouses."

Meat Inspection.

The following articles of Food were condemned during the year :—

The following being surrendered to me :—

Butter, 16lbs.

Condensed Milk, 55 tins.

Dates, 5 boxes.

Tomatoes, 18 tins.

Salmon, 8 tins.

Imported Rabbits, 2 cases.

Fish, 15 stones.

Imported Meat, 449lbs (Some of this was returned to Birmingham Meat Market; the remainder sent to the Salvage Department, Birmingham, for utilisation).

Carcase of Sheep, about 50lbs.

Carcase of Calf, about 70lbs. Tuberculous.

Pork, 30lb. (This was damaged owing to the pig having broken legs).

The following were seized by me and subsequently condemned by the Magistrates :—

Carcase of Calf, about 70lbs.

Carcase of Sheep, about 50lbs.

Carcase of Cow, 407lbs. (Affected with generalised Tuberculosis. This was sent to Birmingham Salvage Department for utilization).

All the above carcases were in a Slaughterhouse, and not exposed for sale. One Calf and the Sheep were "casualties." These had died. The other Calf carcase was sent to a Butcher as a portion of his dead meat supply, and was returned for utilization.

131lbs. of bruised and damaged Imported Meat, which was unfit for sale in its raw state, was utilized for manufacturing purposes.

Infectious Diseases.

71 inspections of premises where cases of Infectious Disease or Tuberculosis occurred, were made. In making these inspections many insanitary conditions were met with and dealt with.

18 Cases were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

52 houses and the whole of the dormitories at Oldswinford Hospital and the entire Sanatorium at Oldswinford Hospital were disinfected. About 500 articles of bedding and clothing were sent to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection, and several lots of bedding destroyed at the Destructor.

On account of an outbreak of Diphtheria at Oldswinford Hospital I inspected the premises on 23rd April, in company with Dr. G. H. Fosbroke, the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. L. Hickey, the Medical Officer of the Hospital, and your Medical Officer of Health. It was suggested that I should make a thorough inspection and report to the Feoffees. This was done and on 1st May, I sent a statement of the defects found and the suggested remedies. I was afterwards asked to get out a Specification of the work necessary together with improvements of some conditions, which although not insanitary were not entirely satisfactory. This specification was prepared and tenders for the work received from Contractors. The estimated cost of the work was exceedingly high and the Feoffees were not disposed to incur the expense. I was then requested to prepare a specification of the essential repairs and improvements and a tender for this work was accepted. At the end of the year most of the work had been done, this included reconstruction of the drainage in several places, complete ventilation of the drains, alterations to the Bath and lavatory basins, improved flushing of Trough W.C.'s, improvements to the Urinals, trapping open drains, various plumbing improvements and other matters.

In April the Tuberculosis Shelter belonging to your Town Council was erected in Corser Street, and in October a Shelter belonging to the Worcestershire County Council was erected in Love Lane.

Water Closets.

During the year no privies were converted into water closets, but 7 additional water closets were provided. Six others were newly-erected to replace those which were removed.

To overcome the constantly recurring nuisances arising from W.C.'s in open yards, to which the tenants of several houses have access, although each house may be provided with a separate W.C., but the yards being open, the W.C.'s may be used by others than the tenants, and it is difficult to find the actual offenders; I have suggested that a W.C. should be erected to each house with access from the scullery. For some time past many property-owners have acted upon my suggestion and removed common washhouses and W.C.'s, and erected a scullery to each house in open yards with a W.C. attached.

During the past four years little progress was made, only 7 houses being improved in this manner.

The following table gives the number of privies converted into water closets since 1901, also the additional W.C.'s provided. Very few houses have privies, and these are in localities where there are no sewers.

Year	W.C.'s in place of Privies	Additional W.C.'s	Fresh Water flushing W.C.'s provided in place of Slop W.C.'s
1901	237	0	0
1902	140	0	0
1903	140	7	0
1904	132	5	0
1905	142	11	0
1906	60	5	0
1907	74	6	0
1908	107	4	0
1909	11	1	0
1910	2	9	0
1911	4	10	3
1912	5	11	13
1913	2	14	9
1914	0	18	1
1915	2	3	0
1916	0	10	3
1917	0	0	1
1918	0	2	0
1919	0	7	0
	1058	123	30

Housing, (Inspection of District) Regulations.

During the year 24 houses were inspected under the above Regulations.

The following were reported to your Sanitary Committee as unfit for human habitation, and Closing Orders were made. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 and Nos. 1 and 2 at rear of Nos. 7 and 8, Green Street.

Nos. 1, 3 and 5, Birmingham Street.

Nos. 1 and 3, Vicarage Road.

Owing to the difficulty in securing the necessary labour verv little work was done to thoroughly repair dwelling-houses. Previous to 1914 I endeavoured to secure the removal of common washhouses and common sanitary conveniences situate in yards used by several houses and to have sculleries erected against the houses, with direct access and for a W.C. to be erected, with the door opening into the scullery, so that each house would have a private scullery and separate W.C. which could not be interfered with by others than the occupiers of the particular house. During the War these improvements could not be carried out, but during the past year six houses have been improved in this respect.

Shop's Acts.

There are 484 shops on the Register.

Petroleum Acts.

During the year 31 licenses to store Petrol and 14 licenses to store Carbide of Calcium were issued.

I am Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR KENT,

Inspector of Nuisances.